

Remarks

Receipt is acknowledged of the Office Action mailed March 23, 2005. Claims 1-10 and 19-20 were pending in the application. Claim 19 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 2, and 20 have been amended. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention. Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 19. No new matter has been introduced. No new issues have been raised. Thus claims 1-10 and 20 are pending for reconsideration at this time.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging receipt of the priority documentation in the pending application and for the continuing examination of the pending application.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for acknowledging receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 5, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-8.

The Office Action states that claims 3-8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1 as set forth in this Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 3-8 are dependent upon claim 1, and are believed to be allowable for at least the following reasons with respect to claim 1, in addition to the further patentable features recited therein. In addition, for the following reasons, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 3-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1 are overcome. Accordingly, allowance of claims 3-8 is solicited.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1

Claims 2-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the specification “does not disclose ‘the register command processor configured to . . . control the plurality of registers to store the control data according to the identified mode’ as in claim 2, line 6.” Office Action, at 2 (emphasis in original). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to Figs. 13-15 and corresponding description

on pages 17-19, which provided a detailed description of the operation and structure of the “register command processor.” Fig. 13 depicts the structure of the register command processor, while the description of Figs. 14a and 14b describe the manner in which data is read from and written to the plurality of flip flop registers. Given this disclosure, Applicant clearly had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1 is solicited.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,614,695 (“Keays” hereafter). Claims 1, 2 and 19-20 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,707,757 (“Roohparvar” hereafter). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

U.S. Patent No. 6,614,695 (Keays)

Claim 1 has been amended to now recite “a parameter controller for receiving an input signal having a characteristic parameter, for controlling the value of the characteristic parameter of the input signal according to the control data and for generating an output signal having the controlled characteristic parameter.” The Office Action asserts that Keays discloses “a parameter controller (108) configured to output *a signal having a characteristic parameter* (skip over a row) depending on the control data outputted from the register controller (such as unverified signal), wherein the register controller is non-volatile.” (emphasis added) However, as disclosed in the instant specification, the characteristic parameter recited in the claims is used to represent characteristics of a signal such as voltage level of a signal inputted in a chip, timing characteristics, and voltage level of a signal outputted from a chip. See specification, at 1, lines 5-19. In contrast to the instant invention, the controller of Keays (108) provides a control signal to address buffer/latch (114) and x-decoder (112). The controller of Keays does not control a “characteristic parameter” of an input signal as recited in the claims of the instant invention.

Similarly, claim 20 now recites “an integrated circuit device capable of controlling signal performance characteristics of an input signal to generate an output signal having the controlled signal performance characteristics.” Accordingly, as above, Keays fails to disclose a device capable of controlling signal performance characteristics of a signal such as voltage level of a

signal inputted in a chip, timing characteristics, and voltage level of a signal outputted.

As the structure in Keays does not control the value of a characteristic parameter as claimed, it cannot anticipate the presently claimed invention. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) of claims 1, 2, and 20 over Keays is solicited.

U.S. Patent No. 6,707,757 (Roohparvar)

As above, claim 1 has been amended to now recite “a parameter controller for receiving an input signal having a characteristic parameter, for controlling the value of the characteristic parameter of the input signal according to the control data and for generating an output signal having the controlled characteristic parameter.” The Office Action asserts that Roohparvar discloses “a parameter controller (State Machine 20, see FIG. 8) configured to output *a signal having a characteristic parameter* (either skip or implement an operations) depending on the control data outputted from the register controller, wherein the register controller is non-volatile.” (emphasis added) However, as above with respect to Keays, Roohparver fails to disclose the controlling of the value of the characteristic parameter of the input signal, where the characteristic parameter recited in the claims is used to represent characteristics of a signal such as voltage level of a signal inputted in a chip, timing characteristics, and voltage level of a signal outputted from a chip.

Similarly, claim 20 now recites “an integrated circuit device capable of controlling signal performance characteristics of an input signal to generate an output signal having the controlled signal performance characteristics.” Accordingly, as above, Roohparver fails to disclose a device capable of controlling signal performance characteristics of a signal such as voltage level of a signal inputted in a chip, timing characteristics, and voltage level of a signal outputted.

Accordingly, for the same reasons as stated above with respect to Keays, disclosed in the instant specification, Roohparver fails to anticipate the presently claimed invention. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) of claims 1, 2, and 20 over Roohparaver is solicited

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Keays/Roohparver and and U.S. Published Application No. 2004/0047172 ("Komatsuzaki" hereafter). As discussed above, neither Keays, nor Roohparaver disclose the control of the value

of the characteristic parameter of the input signal as recited in the claims. Komatsuzaki fails to cure the deficiency of either Keays or Roohparaver. Accordingly, because Claims 9 and 10 are dependent upon claim 1, claims 9 and 19 allowable for at least the aforementioned reasons with respect to claim 1 in addition to the further patentable features recited therein.

Allowance of claims 9 and 10 is solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that all objections and rejections be withdrawn and that a notice of allowance be forthcoming. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for any reason related to the advancement of this case.

The Commissioner is authorized to credit any over payment or charge any deficient to deposit account number 08-1641.

Respectfully submitted,

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